TRANSFORMERS ANIMATED

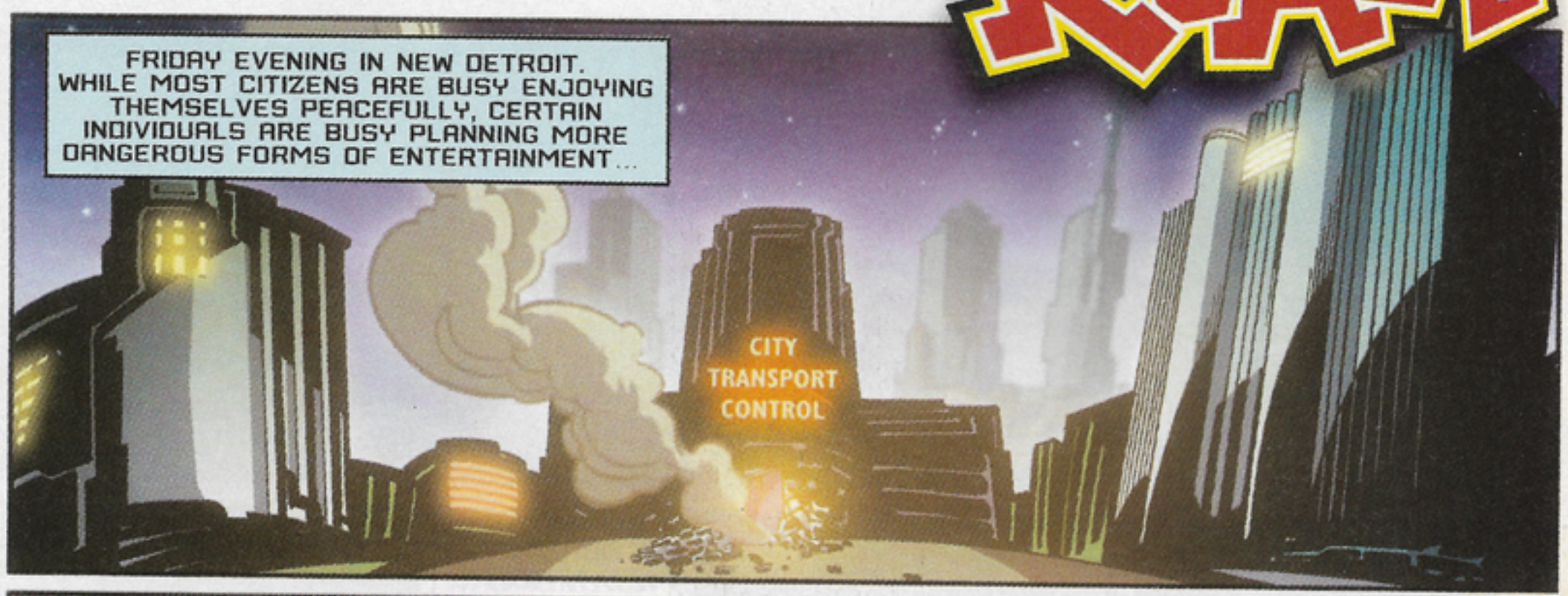
CROSS ROADS

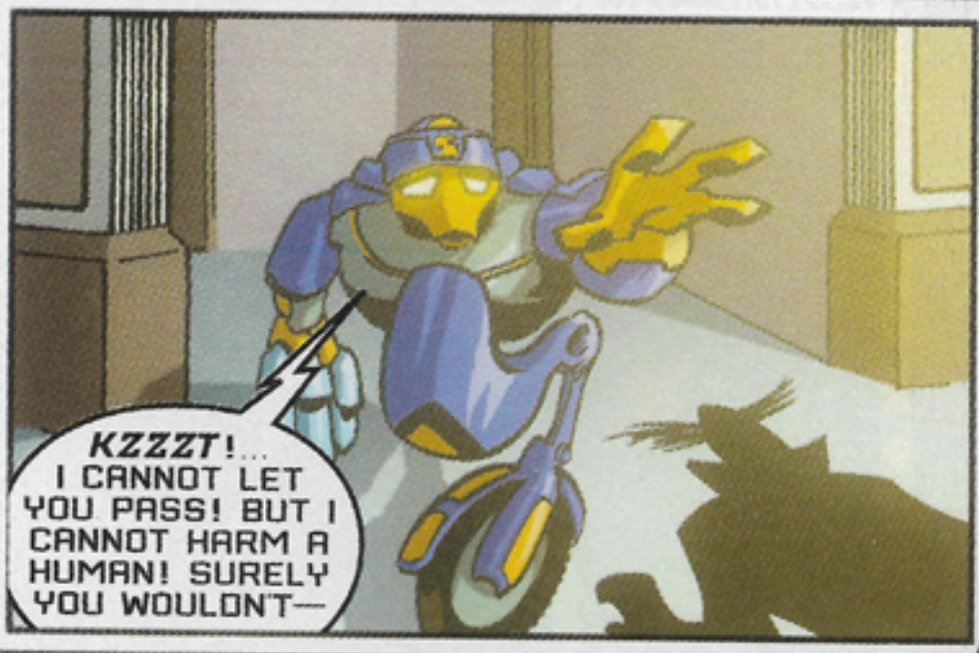
HE TORY

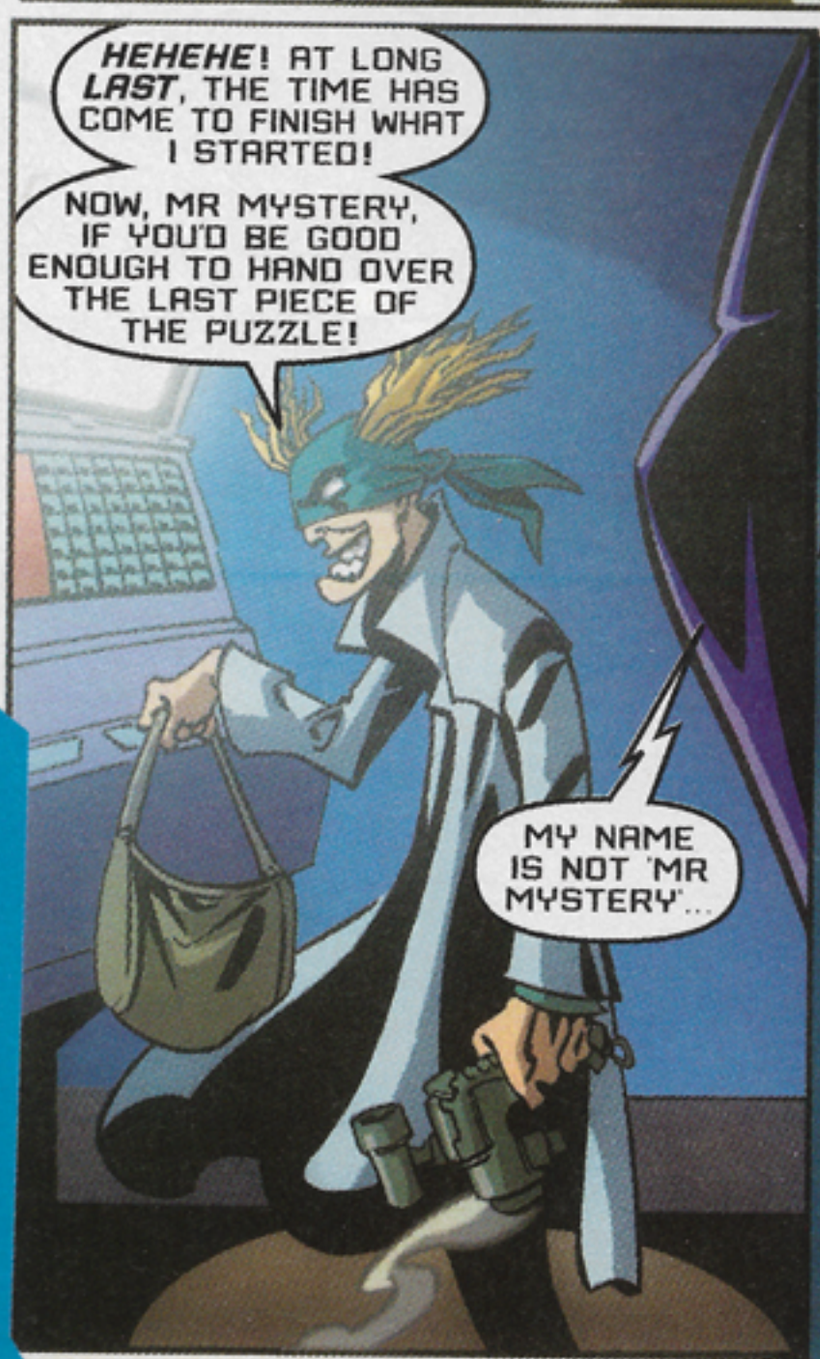
e the Autobots enjoying a rare t off, there's ble brewing where in town.

azy villain, t on turning ts into bons, is hing a plan will put all etroit's bitants at And he a special pticon backer...

he Autobots ble to stop before the hines take over world?!







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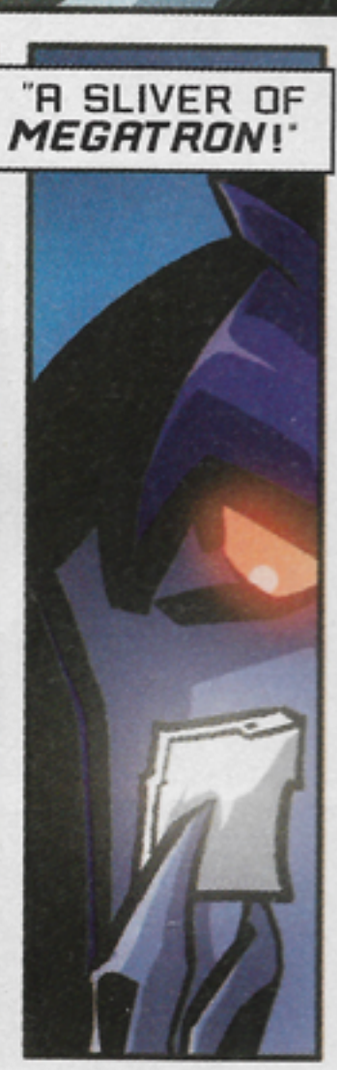
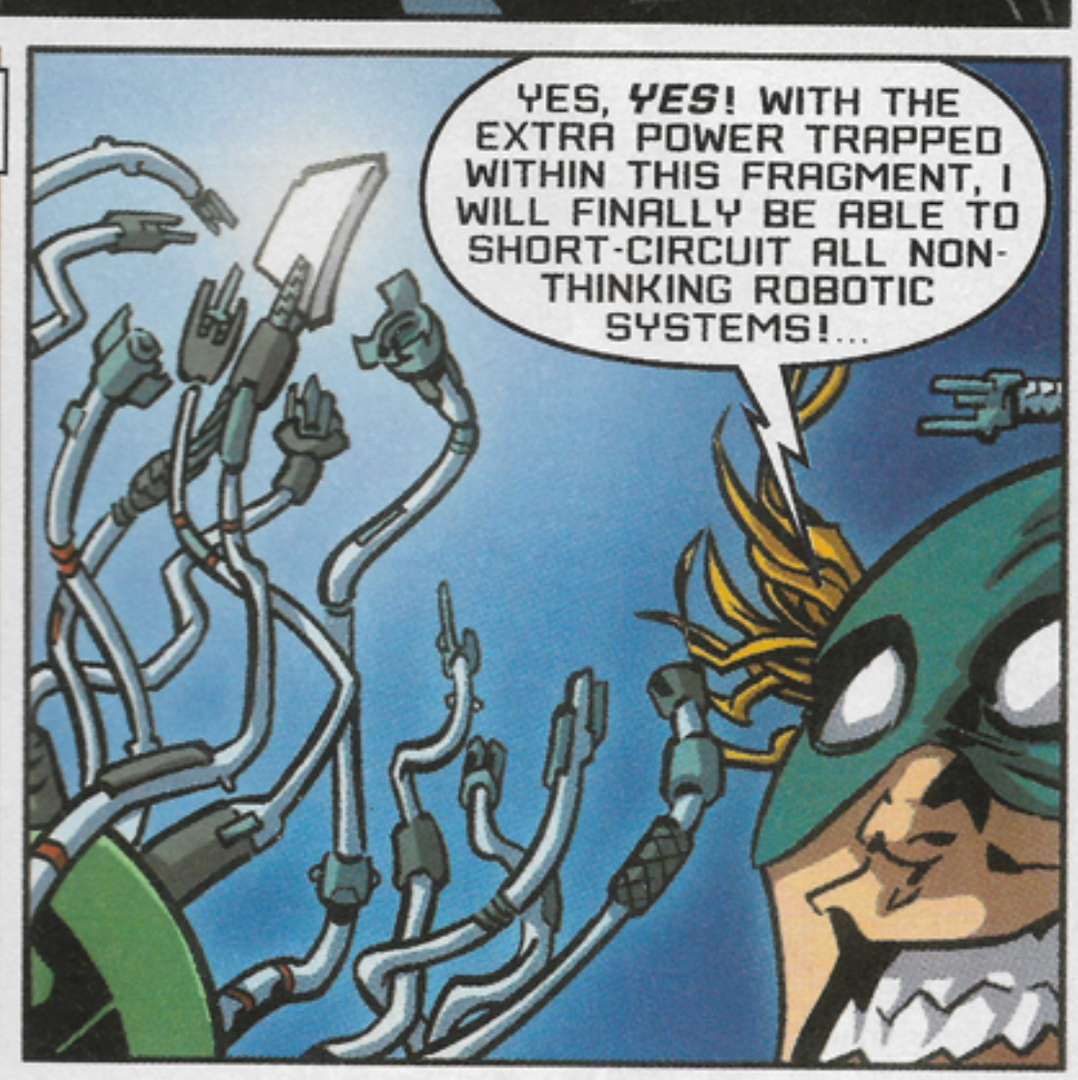
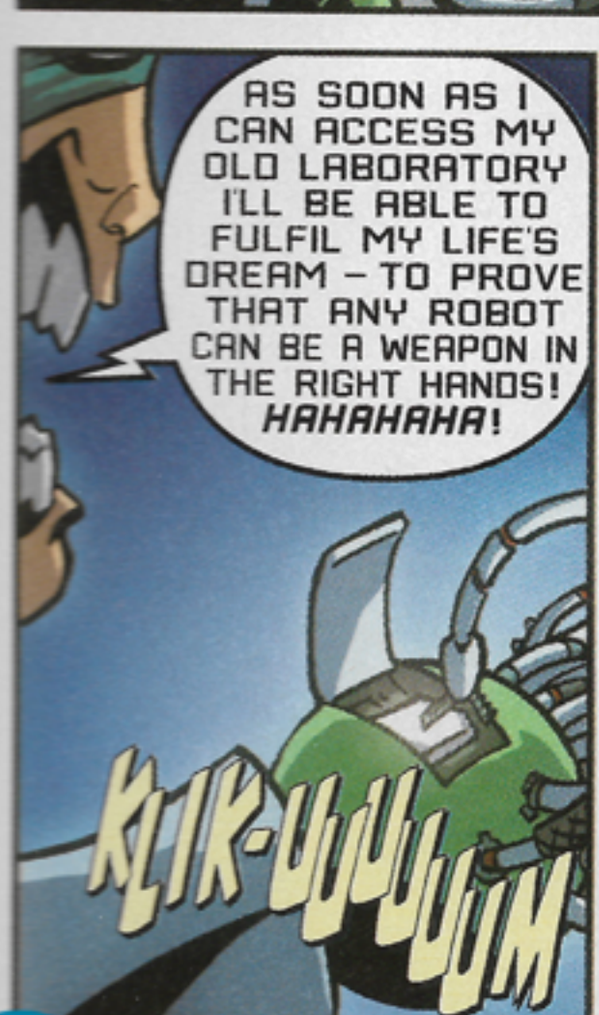
CENTRAL COMPUTER
BEFORE I GIVE YOU THIS PRICELESS ITEM, TELL ME SOMETHING, PATHETIC HUMAN. DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOUR PLAN WILL WORK?
OF COURSE IT'LL WORK – OR MY NAME'S NOT *CROSSROADS*... MASTER OF MACHINES!

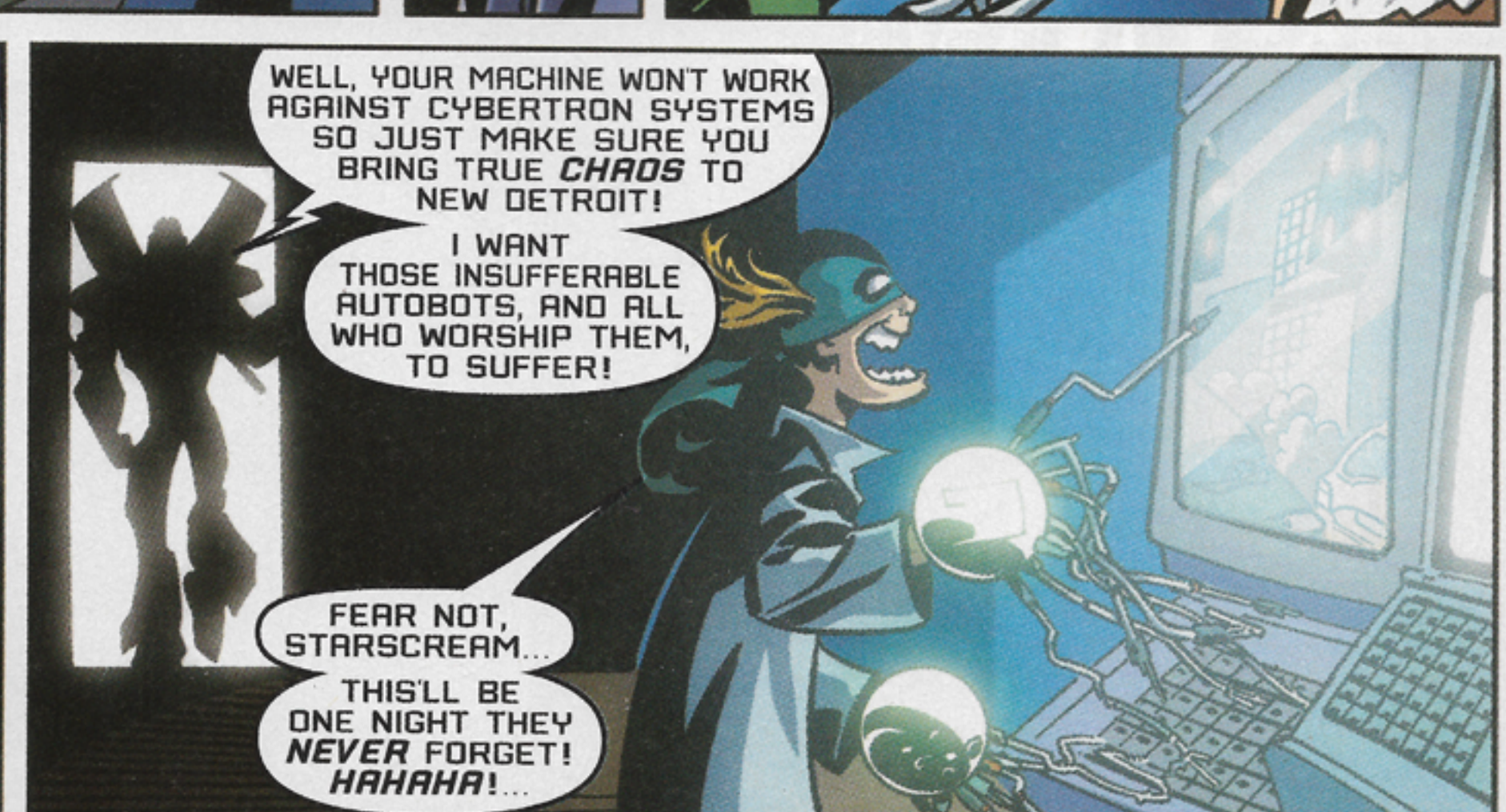
AND AS YOU CAN SEE, WITH MY *OVER-RIDE GAUNTLETS*, I'M *FAR* FROM PATHETIC!
KZZZZZZZT
HMMM... PERHAPS, BUT THEY ARE NOTHING WITHOUT *MY* FINAL INGREDIENT!

OOOOH! I LOVE GETTING PRESENTS!
NOT AS MUCH AS I'M GOING TO LOVE *GIVING* THIS ONE!...


"A SLIVER OF *MEGATRON*!"


YES, *YES*! WITH THE EXTRA POWER TRAPPED WITHIN THIS FRAGMENT, I WILL FINALLY BE ABLE TO SHORT-CIRCUIT ALL NON-THINKING ROBOTIC SYSTEMS!...


AS SOON AS I CAN ACCESS MY OLD LABORATORY I'LL BE ABLE TO FULFIL MY LIFE'S DREAM – TO PROVE THAT ANY ROBOT CAN BE A WEAPON IN THE RIGHT HANDS! *HAHAHAHA*!
KLIK-UUUUUM


WELL, YOUR MACHINE WON'T WORK AGAINST CYBERTRON SYSTEMS SO JUST MAKE SURE YOU BRING TRUE *CHAOS* TO NEW DETROIT!
I WANT THOSE INSUFFERABLE AUTOBOTS, AND ALL WHO WORSHIP THEM, TO SUFFER!
FEAR NOT, STARSCREAM...
THIS'LL BE ONE NIGHT THEY *NEVER* FORGET! *HAHAHA*!...

MEANWHILE...

...THIS IS LITERALLY ONE NIGHT I'LL ***NEVER*** FORGET! IF YOU'VE JUST JOINED US ... ***WHERE*** HAVE YOU BEEN?!...

THE DUNKERS HAVE BEEN DOMINANT BUT THE JUMPERS HAVE BEEN JUBILANT! I PREDICT THIS GAME WILL GO DOWN TO THE ***FINAL*** WHISTLE, FOLKS!

IT SURE WAS KIND OF PRIME TO GIVE US ALL THE EVENING OFF!

YEAH, WELL, I STILL CAN'T COMPUTE WHY WE CHOSE TO SPEND OUR TIME ***HERE***, AT THIS STUPID GAME!

OH, YOU'RE JUST ACTING LIKE A CRANKY CRANKSHAFT BECAUSE THE KIDS KEEP MISTAKING YOU FOR A LITTER BIN!

BULKHEAD, YOU ARE NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO THE POETIC MASTERY OF THIS EVENT! WE COULD LEARN SO MUCH FROM BASKETBALL...

BUT I ALREADY KNOW HOW TO BLOW MY AIRHORN, SPILL MY DRINK AND SHOUT RUDE NAMES!

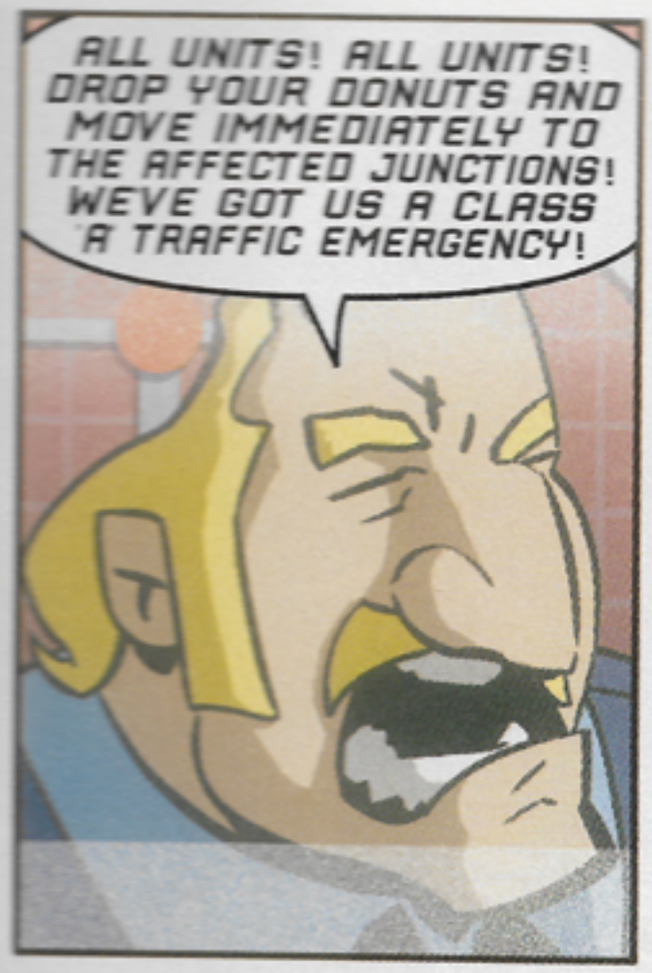
NO, YOU SILLY PETROL HEAD! PROWL'S NOT TALKING ABOUT THE FANS, HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE ***PLAYERS***!

THEIR GRACE... THEIR SPEED... THEIR TACTICS...

WOAH, UNFORTUNATELY, THIS'LL HAVE TO WAIT – BACK IN THE ***REAL*** WORLD THERE'S TROUBLE! LISTEN TO THIS...

WHOOP

WHOOP



MOMENTS LATER, OUTSIDE.

HMMM... ACCORDING TO THE POLICE LOCATOR, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPY THE PROBLEM FROM HERE...

I CAN SEE SMOKE RISING FROM THE FLYOVER! WE SHOULD CHECK IT OUT!

OKAY, BULKY, BUT I WOULDN'T BOTHER TRANSFORMING FOR THIS ONE!...

"...NO ONE'S ROLLING OUT TONIGHT! IT'S TOTAL *GRIDLOCK*!"

PLEASE STAY CALM!

THIS IS ONE BAD JAM!

"PUBLIC TRANSPORT, HEATING, LIGHTING, BANK TELLERS... EVEN THE HUMBLE SNACKS MACHINES, NOW ANSWER ONLY TO ME! HAHA!"

KZZZZZZZT

WORH! FALL BACK! SAVE YOUR CAPTAIN, THEN SAVE YOURSELVES!

WHAM

SMASH

LOOK OUT– GUG!

GOOOOOOOOSH

BLUB!

BOTS, WE'RE IN A MOTHERBOARD-MELTING MESS OF TROUBLE HERE...

AGREED... THAT BASKETBALL GAME IS STARTING TO LOOK BETTER AND BETTER!

MY DEMANDS ARE SIMPLE: FIRSTLY, HAND OVER ALL THE GOLD IN THE NEW DETROIT RESERVE! SECONDLY, DESTROY THOSE IDIOTIC AUTOBOTS! YOU'VE ONE HOUR!...

"...AND UNTIL THEN, HAVE FUN WITH YOUR NEW FRIENDS! HAHAHAHA!..."

KRUNTCH

NO ONE IN THIS CITY WOULD WANT TO HURT US! THEY LOVE THE AUTOBOTS! I'VE EVEN GOT MY OWN ACTION FIGURE!

UM, YOU MIGHT WANT TO RE-PROCESS THAT, BIG GUY!

SAVE OUR CITY!

DESTROY THE METAL HEADS

RETREAT!

10 CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

ONE ESCAPE LATER...

<PANT> I'M NOT REALLY PROGRAMMED FOR <GASP> SPRINTING! I'M MORE OF A WALKING AND SITTING BOT!

WELL, I'M BUILT FOR QUIET CONTEMPLATION AND RIGHT NOW I'M TRYING TO THINK *WHAT* THIS CROSSROADS CHARACTER WOULD WANT WITH US...

I'VE AN IDEA – BECAUSE I KNOW *WHO* CROSSROADS REALLY IS!

YOU DO? SARI, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING EARLIER?

WELL, I RECOGNISED HIS VOICE BUT THAT SILLY MASK WAS DISTRACTING ME! CROSSROADS IS ACTUALLY *ROLAND CROSS*!

"HE USED TO WORK FOR SUMDAC INDUSTRIES, WITH MY DAD. I REMEMBER DAD TELLING ME ABOUT THE DAY HE DISCOVERED WHAT ROLAND WAS *REALLY* DOING – OVER-RIDING HARMLESS LAB BOTS AND FORCING THEM TO FIGHT *EACH OTHER*!"

"DAD FIRED HIM IMMEDIATELY, AND LOCKED AWAY ALL HIS EQUIPMENT. I CAN STILL HEAR THAT CRAZY CROSS VOWING THAT ONE DAY HE WOULD COMPLETE HIS EXPERIMENT – AND UNLEASH ALL ROBOTS!"

EXIT

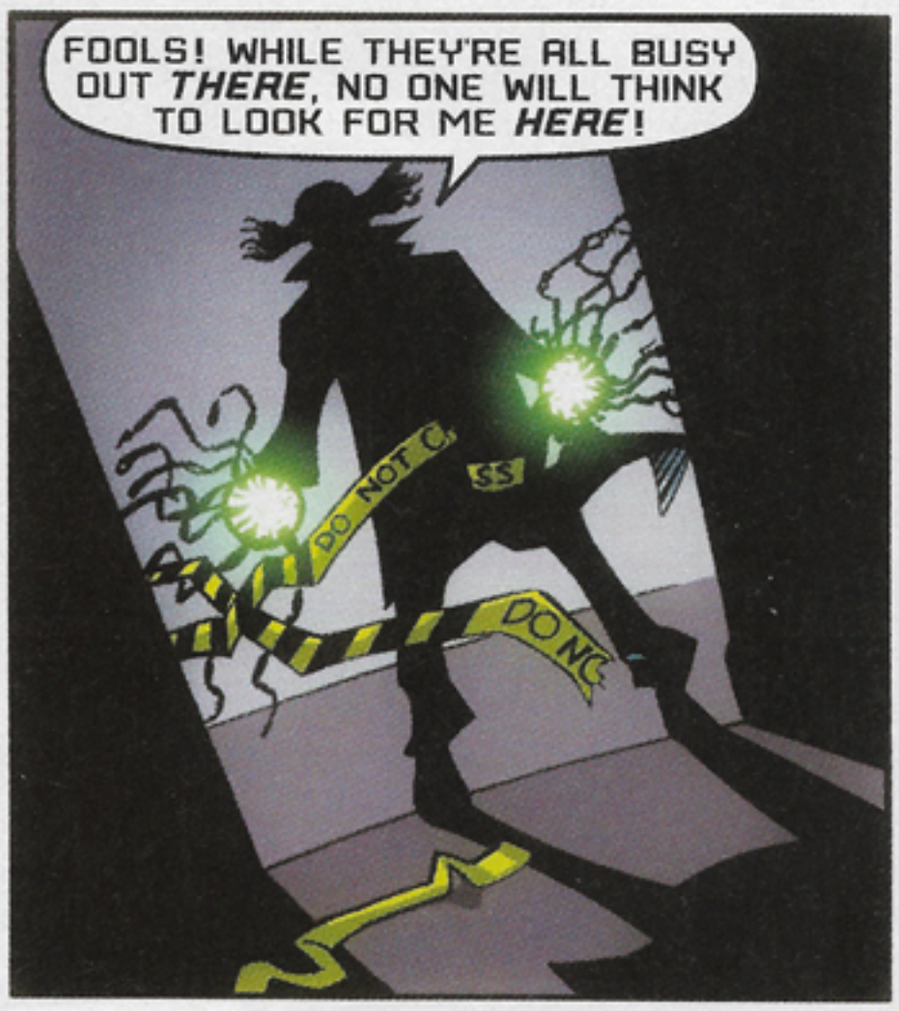
THIS IS *ALL* A DISTRACTION! TURNING THE PEOPLE AGAINST US, DEMANDING ALL THAT GOLD... THEY'RE JUST DIVERSIONS!

PROWL, YOU'RE RIGHT, HE MUST BE AFTER HIS OLD LAB GEAR! IT'S STILL STORED IN SUMDAC TOWER!

EXCELLENT WORK, SARI! AUTOBOTS, THERE IS ONLY ONE RULE NOW... *JUSTICE*!

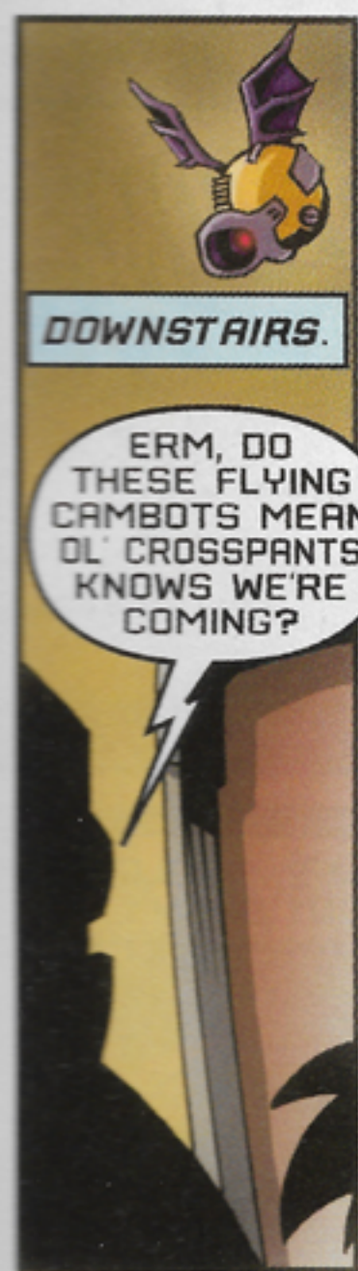
YEAH! NO ONE TURNS HUMANS AGAINST MACHINES IN *THIS* TOWN! ER... EXCEPT CAPTAIN FANZONE...

MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN...
HAHAHA HAHA!


FOOLS! WHILE THEY'RE ALL BUSY OUT *THERE*, NO ONE WILL THINK TO LOOK FOR ME *HERE*!
DO NOT C
DO NO

AAAAH, JUST AS I LEFT IT! *PERFECT*! NOW TO FINISH MY LIFE'S WORK!
KLIK

WHAT!? I DON'T BELIEVE IT - *AUTOBOTS*! BUT *HOW* DID THEY FIND ME!
AGH - NO MATTER! MY MEGATRON-ENHANCED GAUNTLETS WILL STOP THEM GETTING ANY FURTHER!
SECURITY BOT 1


DOWNSTAIRS.
ERM, DO THESE FLYING CAMBOTS MEAN OL' CROSSPANTS KNOWS WE'RE COMING?

PUMMELER UNIT 1 - INTRUDERS LOCATED!
AFFIRMITIVE! LET'S KICK SOME *BOT*!
WELL, I GUESS *THAT* ANSWERS MY QUESTION! *ENOUGH* SNEAKING - LETS RUMBLE!

CRUNCH

KA-SMASH

NICE FENDER BENDING, TOUGH GUY!

OUUUUH, SORRY 'BOUT THE MESS, MUM! I PROMISE I'LL CLEAN UP...

OK, SARI, YOU KNOW THE LAYOUT OF THIS BUILDING - WHERE IS CROSSROADS HIDING?

HMMM... IN ORDER TO USE THOSE PUMMELER SECURITY DRONES, HE MUST BE IN THE *COMMAND ROOM*! IT'S ON THE TOP FLOOR!

UM, COULD BE A PROBLEM GETTING UP THERE! THE LIFT UNIT LOOKS A LITTLE... HUNGRY!

KLANG KLANG

IT DOESN'T MATTER. THERE ARE NO TRAFFIC JAMS *HERE*!...

A NANOSEC LATER...

VROOOOM

CLATTER

M-M-MY SHOCK ABSORBERS ARE G-G-GOING TO *ACHE* IN THE M-M-M-MORNING!

PHEW! THIS IS IT! BUT THE DOOR LOOKS LIKE IT'S SEALED *TIGHT*!

THAT *WON'T* BE A PROBLEM! THERE'S NOT A DOOR IN THIS BUILDING THAT CAN STOP MY *KEY*!

"SEE, I TOLD YOU! EASY..."

SVFXX

SHIINK

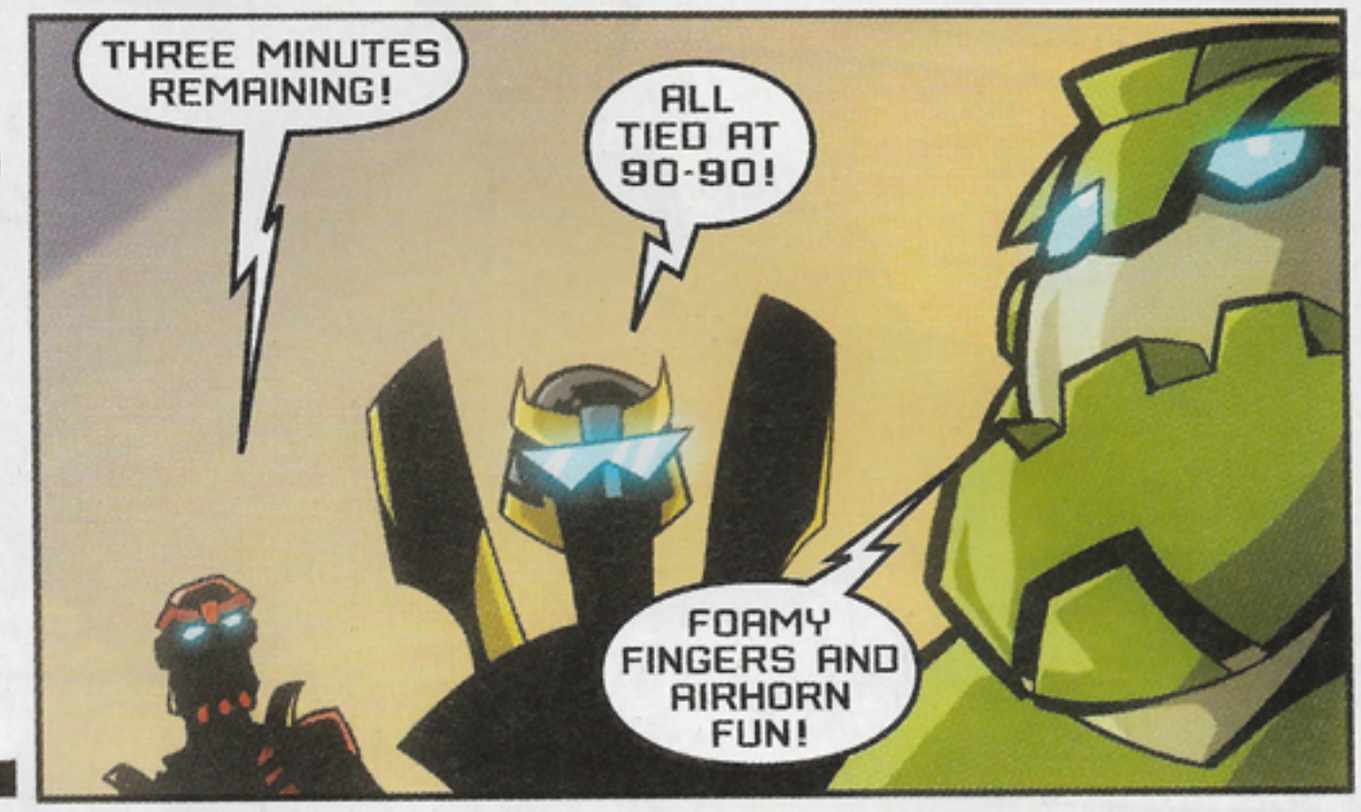
SHIINK

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, CROSSROADS – LET'S PLAY A LITTLE SHURIKEN SLAM DUNK! AFTERBURN – YOU'RE BLOCKING!

ONE CONFESSION AND AN ARREST LATER...
STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT CROSSROADS SAID - THAT STARSCREAM HELPED HIM TO HURT THE ROBOTS!

OH, I CAN. WE ALL KNOW DECEPTICONS ARE CUNNING. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN OR WHERE THEY'LL STRIKE.
A WISE BOT ONCE TOLD ME THAT TO TRULY KNOW YOUR ENEMY YOU MUST STUDY HIM. TODAY WE LEARNT SOMETHING NEW - WE MUST KEEP OUR EYES OPEN AT ALL TIMES!

UM, IS THAT EVERYTHING, CAPTAIN? CAN WE GO NOW?
SURE, SARI... BUT WHAT ARE YOU FOLKS IN SUCH A HURRY FOR?


THREE MINUTES REMAINING!
ALL TIED AT 90-90!
FOAMY FINGERS AND AIRHORN FUN!

BACK AT THE GAME.
NICE MOVES EARLIER, BULKHEAD, BUT THAT'S WHAT I CALL A SLAM DUNK!
DOOMP
...THIS IS IT FOLKS! TWO SECONDS ON THE CLOCK! HE SHOOTS...
...HE SCORESSSSSS! THE DUNKERS WIN!
THE END!